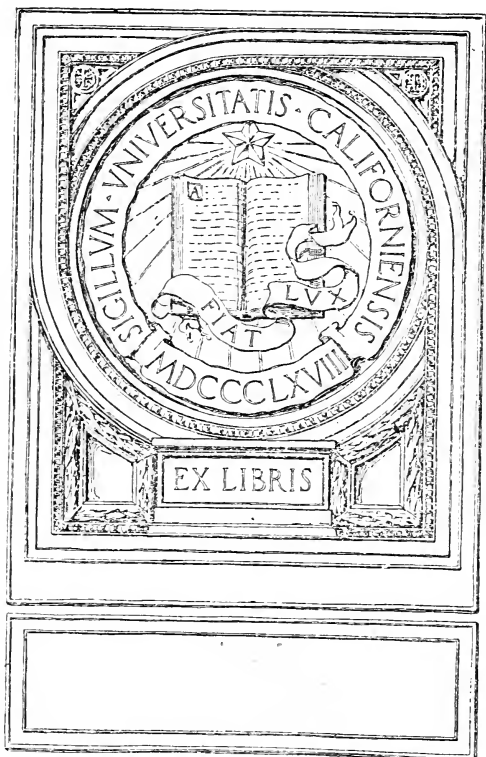


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*Earnestly compiled by*

OWEN WISTER, LL. D., L. H. D.

Member of the American Academy of Arts  
and Letters and corresponding member  
of the Société des Gens de Lettres

with careful charts by

GEORGE HOWE, B.A., A.I.A.  
Architecté Diplômé par le Gouvernement Français

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## PREFACE

For the idea of this book  
The reader is urged to look  
At Biographies for Beginners,  
By a couple of British sinners.



## GEORGE WASHINGTON

n crises demanding truth

Washington was over-indulged in youth.

When he said: "I can not tell a lie,"

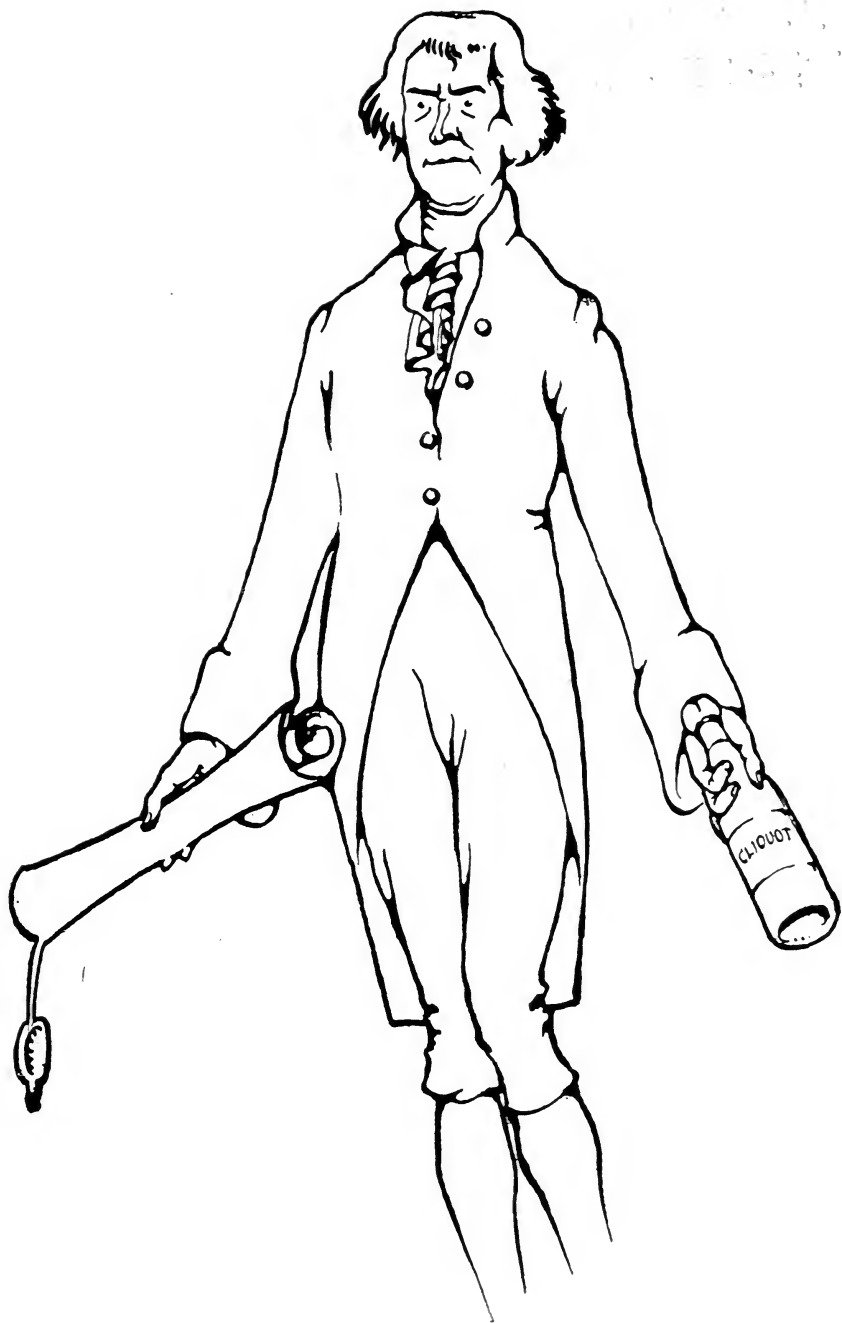
They neglected to make him try.



## THOMAS JEFFERSON

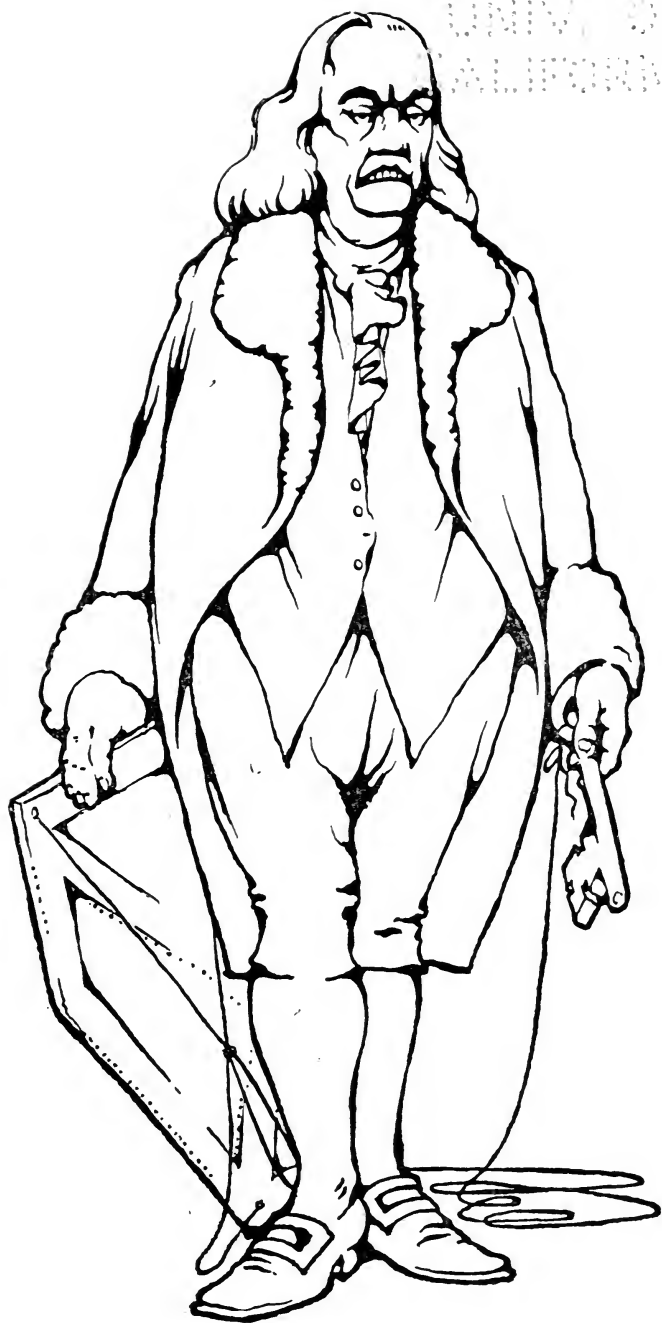
When T. Jefferson finished the Declaration  
He would have felt but scanty elation  
Could he have foreseen that the end meant  
Anything like the 18th Amendment.





## BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

It is reported that Benjamin Franklin  
With envy and hate is ranklin'  
Because Marconi  
Makes such piles of money.



## ALEXANDER HAMILTON

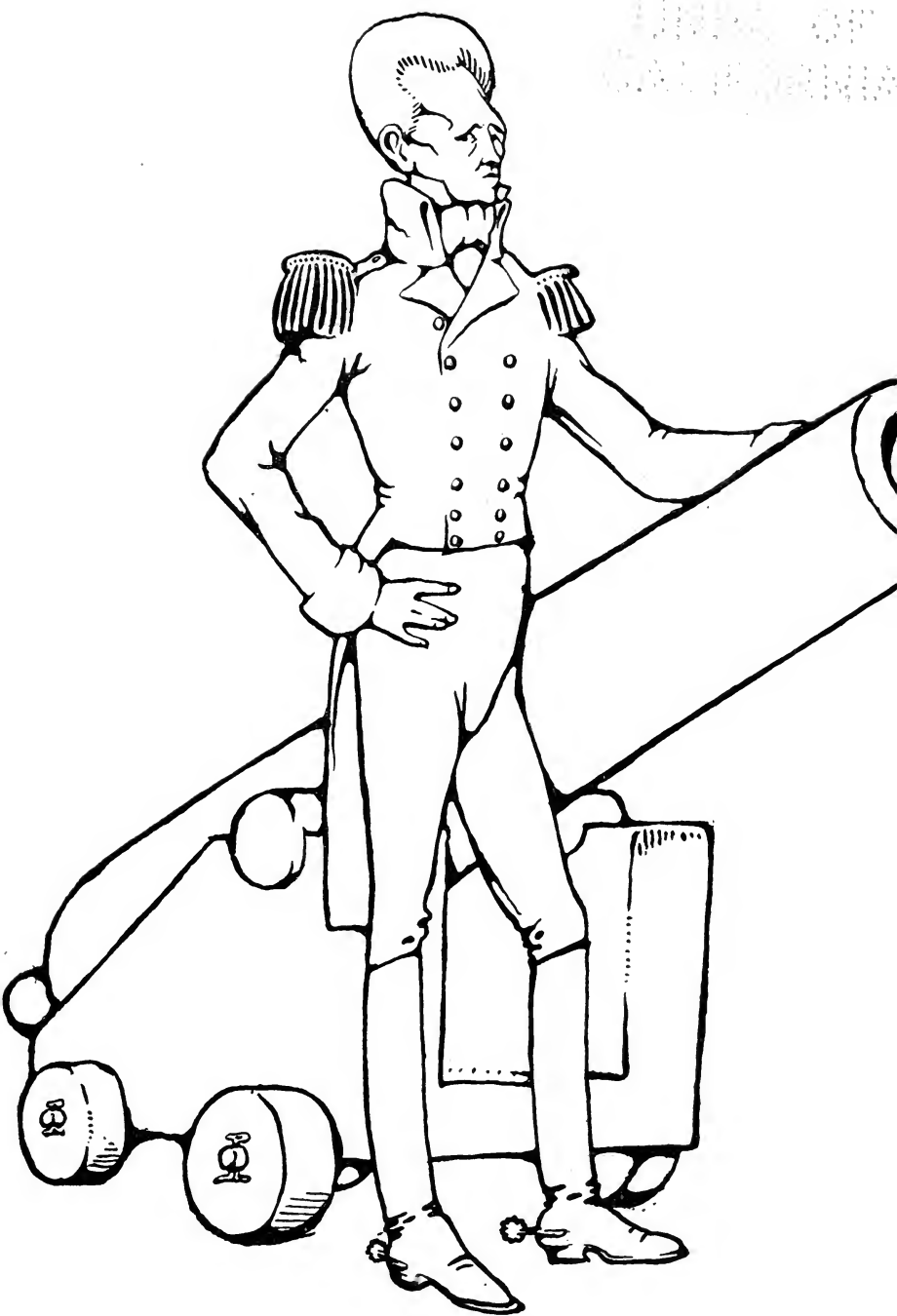
When Hamilton challenged Burr  
He addressed him as “Sir”;  
We should be scrupulously polite  
When we fight.

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## ANDREW JACKSON

To most persons Andrew Jackson means  
The Battle of New Orleans—  
Which pronunciation  
Fills the Creoles with indignation.



## COMMODORE PERRY

Although Commodore Perry  
often went fishing in a wherry,  
was upon no such trip  
that he remarked, "Don't give up the ship."



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## BRIGHAM YOUNG

Brigham Young

Has been described by pen and tongue;

But who has attempted to draw

Any picture of his mothers-in-law?



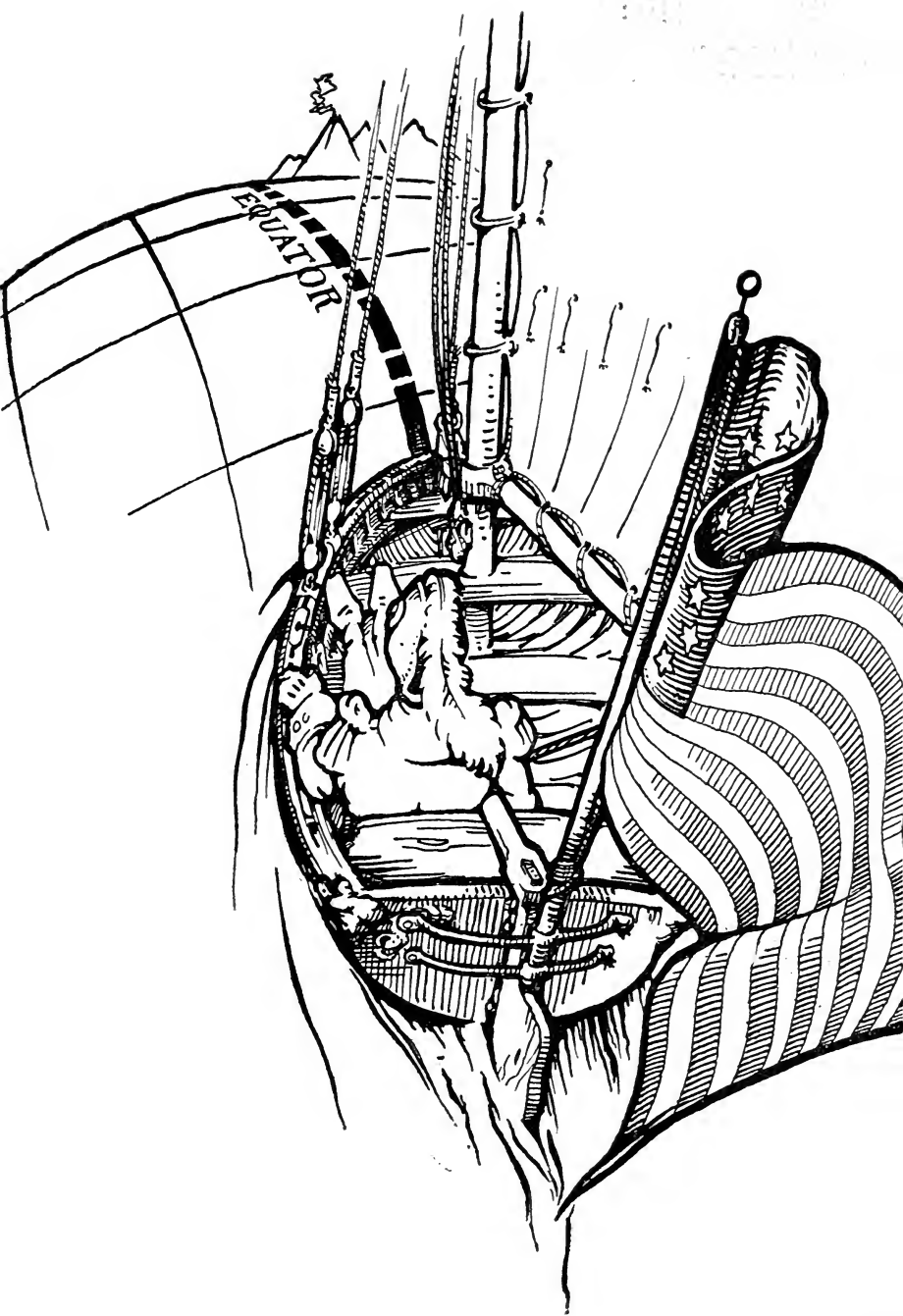
## COMMODORE DECATUR

Commodore Decatur

Never said that he invented The Equator.

“As for Old Glory, I’ll never fail her,”

Declared this unassuming sailor.



## GENERAL GRANT

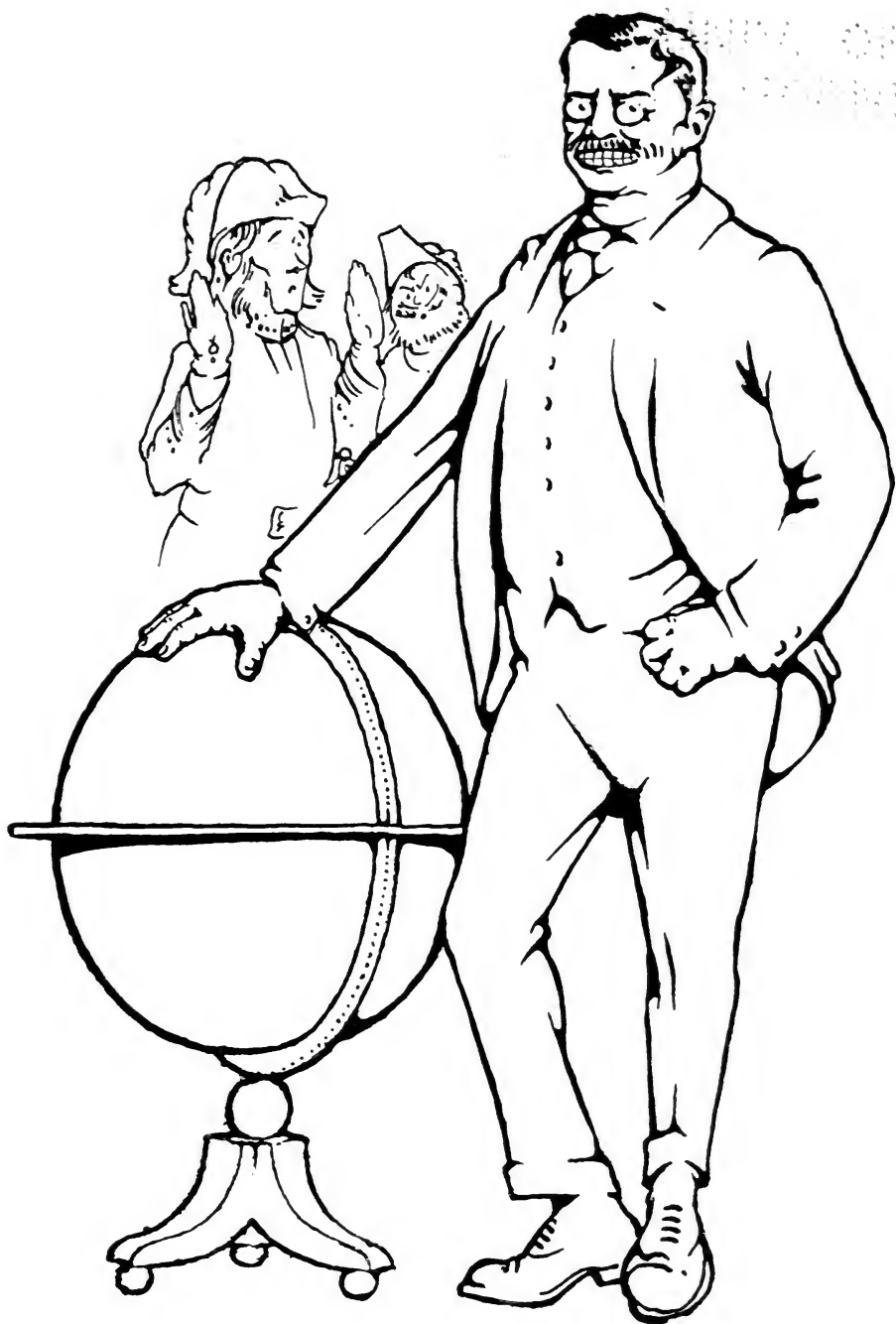
It is possible that General Grant  
may have had an Aunt;  
but nobody maintains  
that she was associated with his campaigns.



## THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Theodore Roosevelt hurled  
The American fleet around the world.  
Some Admirals on shore said T. R.  
Had gone entirely too far.





## ADMIRAL SIMS

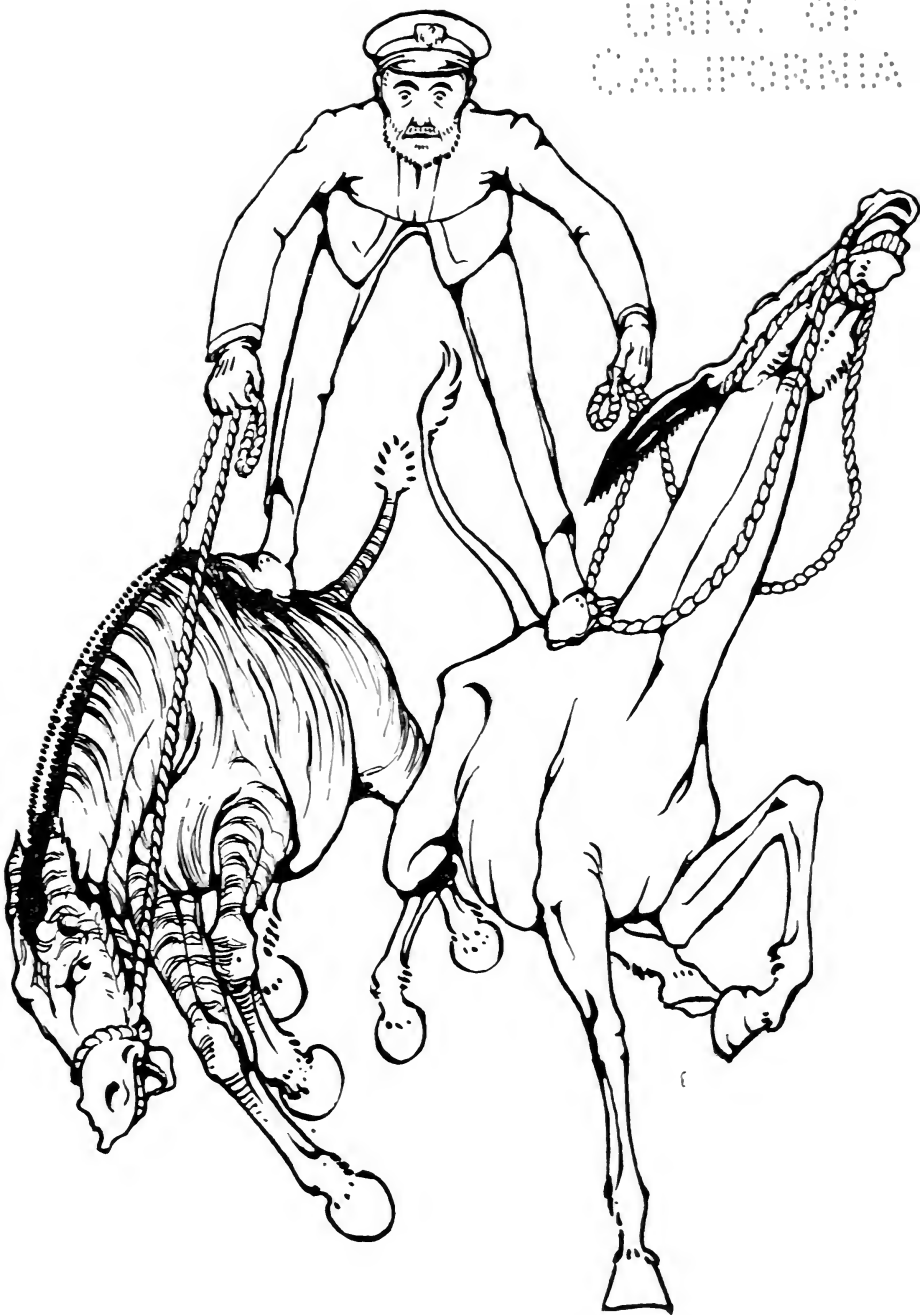
Admiral Sims

Sang several Irish hymns

About zebras and jackasses.

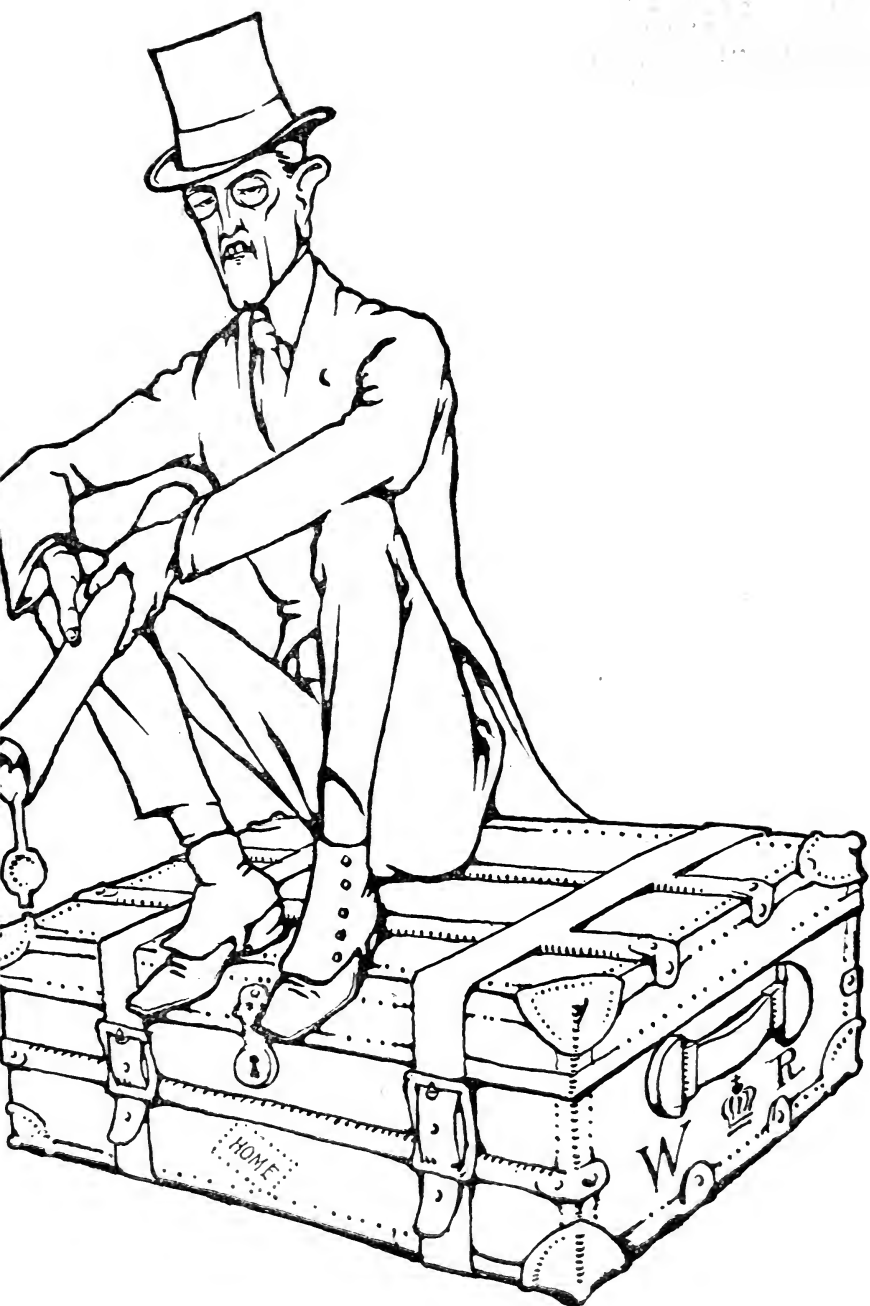
They occasioned fracas.

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## WOODROW WILSON

Of this country while President  
Mr. Wilson was frequently a resident  
It is now rumored that he contemplates  
Settling in the United States.



## HENRY CABOT LODGE

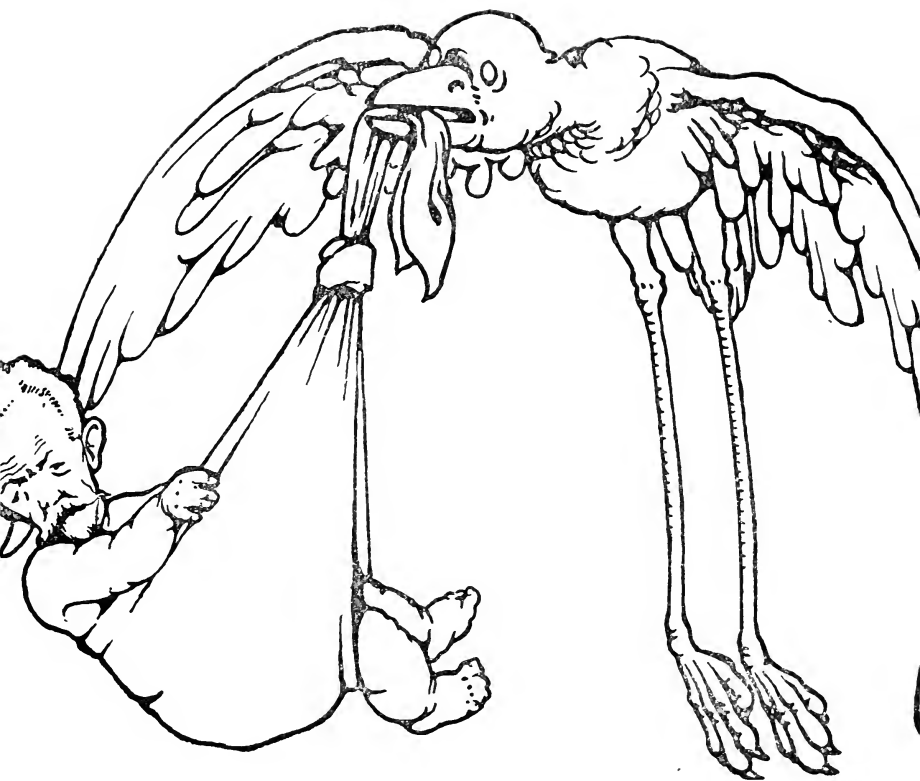
an erratic view sets

Senator Lodge down as born in Massachusetts.

is coming to be known that the stork

deposited him in Cork.

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WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

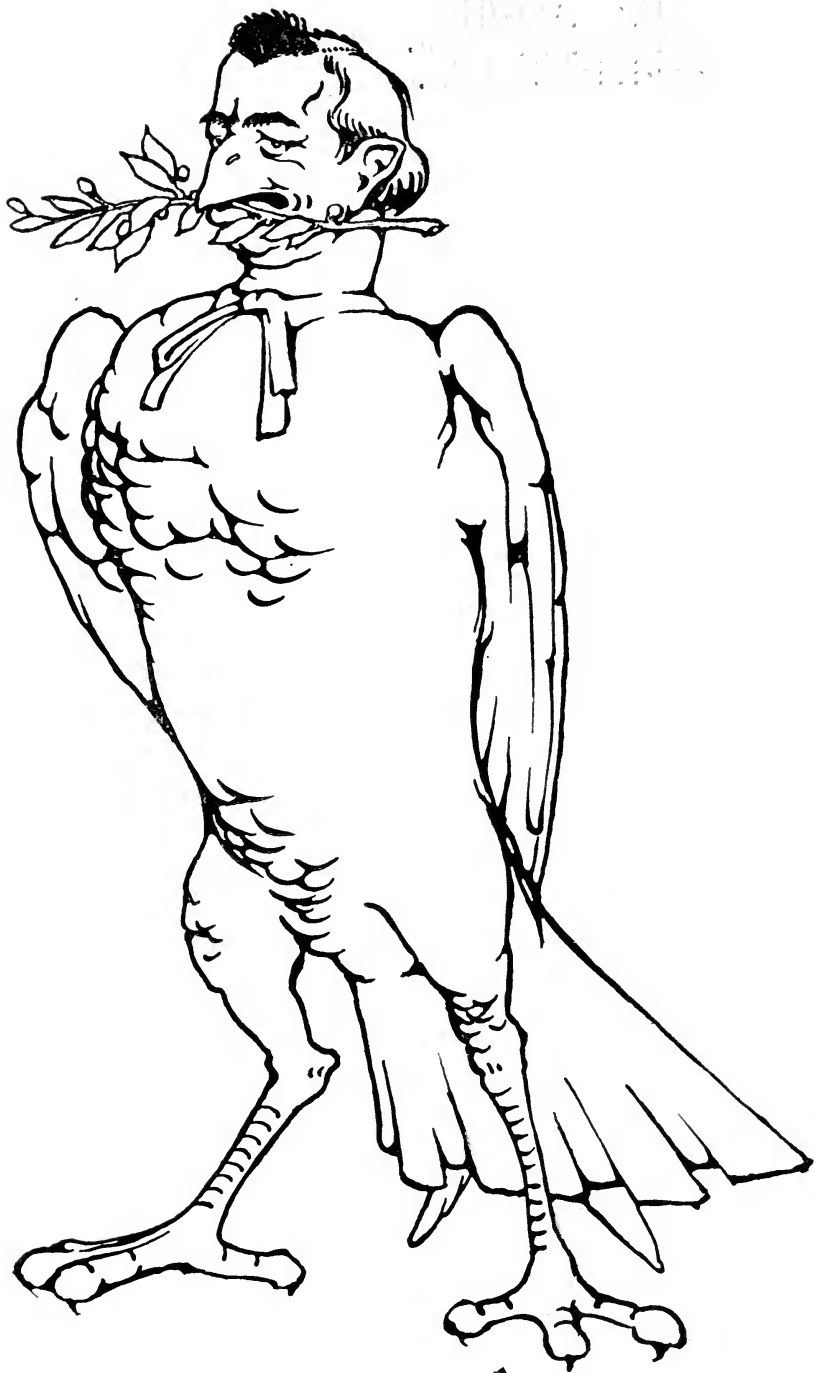
Mr. Bryan

Must be as bold as any lion.

When addressing Chautauqua

He intrepidly declines to talk war.





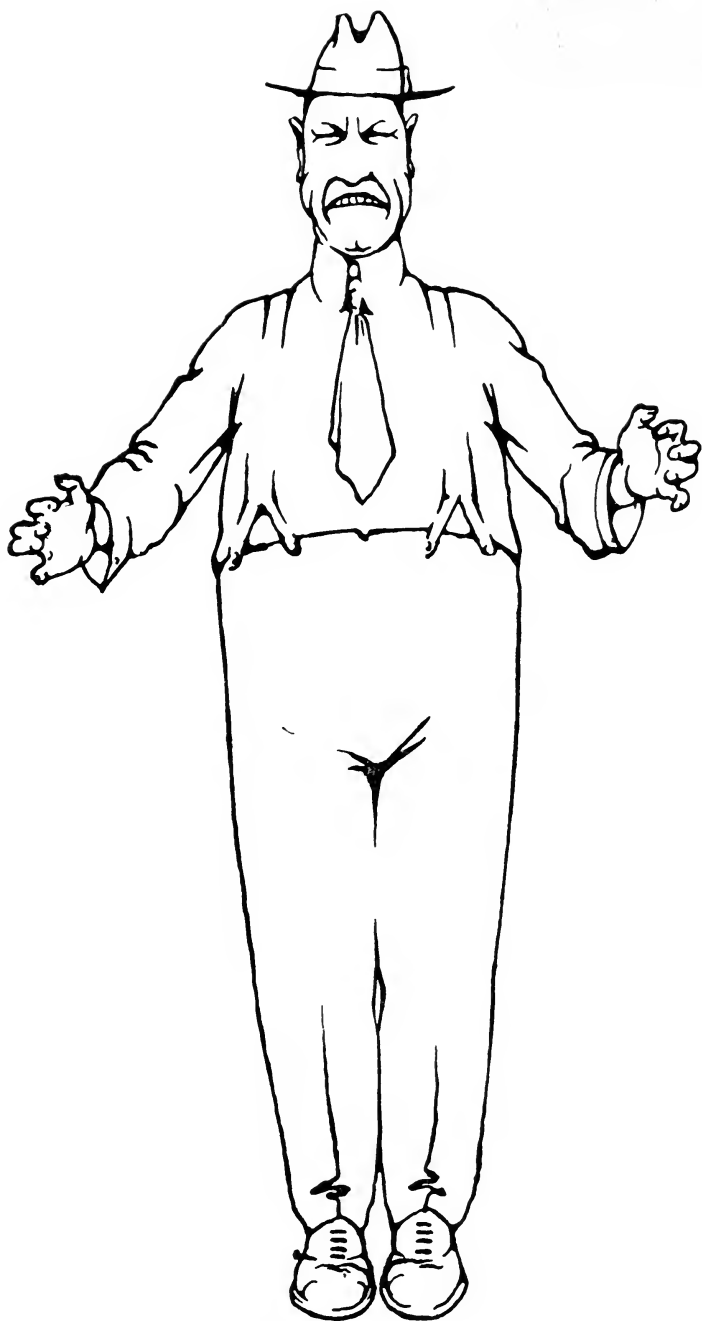
# WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST

Mr. William Randolph Hearst

Never could do his worst.

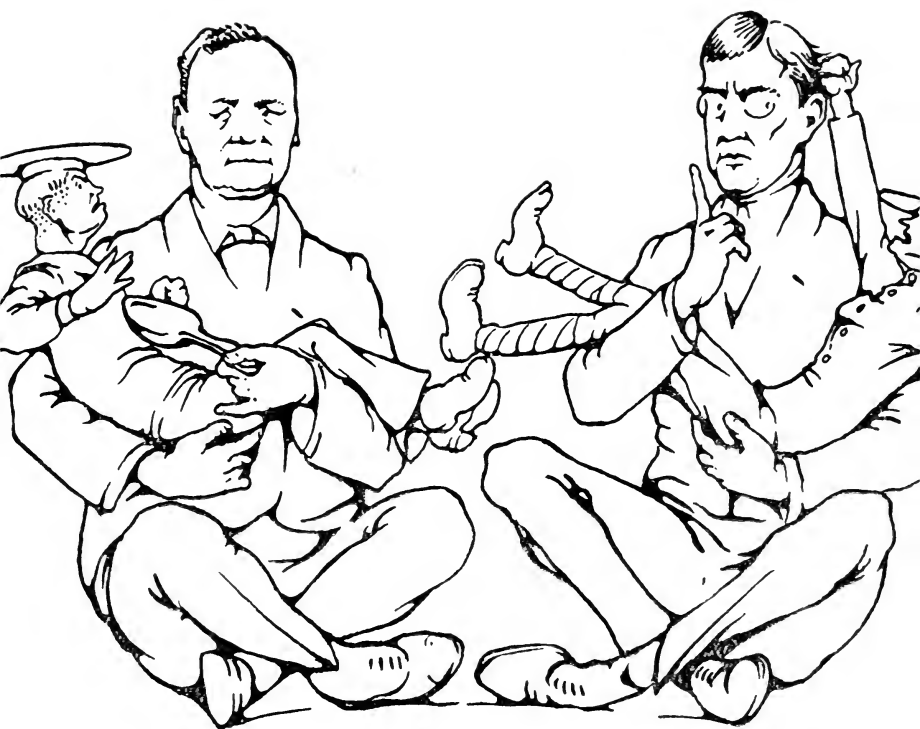
This would have discouraged most men;

But he tried it again and again.



## MR. BAKER AND MR. DANIELS

Mr. Baker, Secretary of War,  
Reasoned with soldiers who swore;  
While Mr. Daniels, Secretary of the Navy,  
Fed profane seamen on gravy.



W. G. MCADOO

Mr. McAdoo, Secretary of the Treasury,  
Never said with what pleasure he  
Would, if so the Nation choose,  
Wear his father-in-law's shoes.



## SENATORS JOHNSON AND BORAH

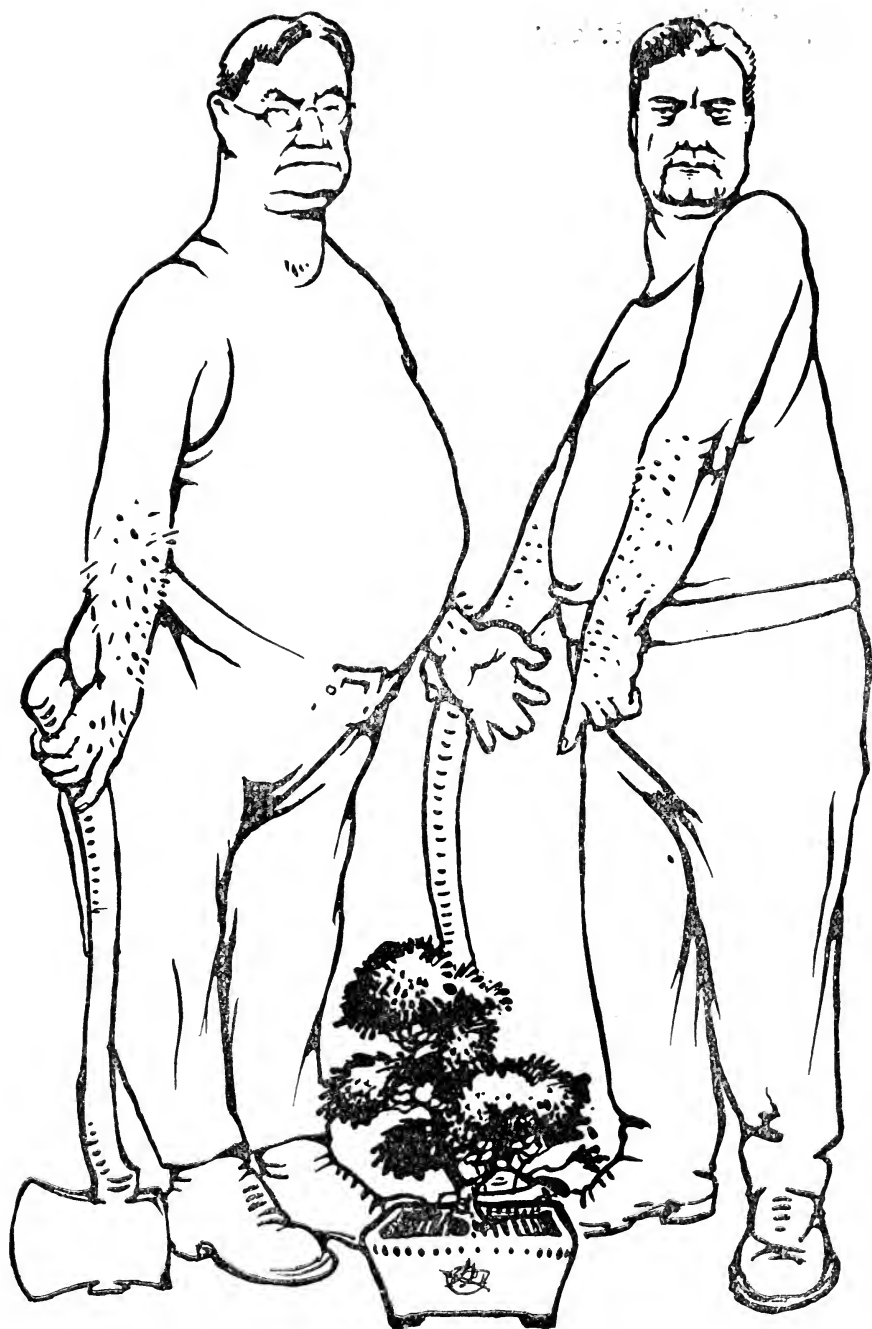
Hiram Johnson says that ----

Should be cleared out to a man.

Borah of Idaho

Likewise says so.





## SENATOR LAFOLLETTE

Senator LaFollette  
is easily to be met;  
Just write him a note,  
Enclosing a German vote.



## THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE

Many in the fifties found it wise  
To avoid reference to the Missouri Compromise;  
Most of us may  
Unhesitatingly mention it to-day.



WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT

Mr. Taft

When he fell down always laughed.

He said that he found it best

To take serious matters in jest.

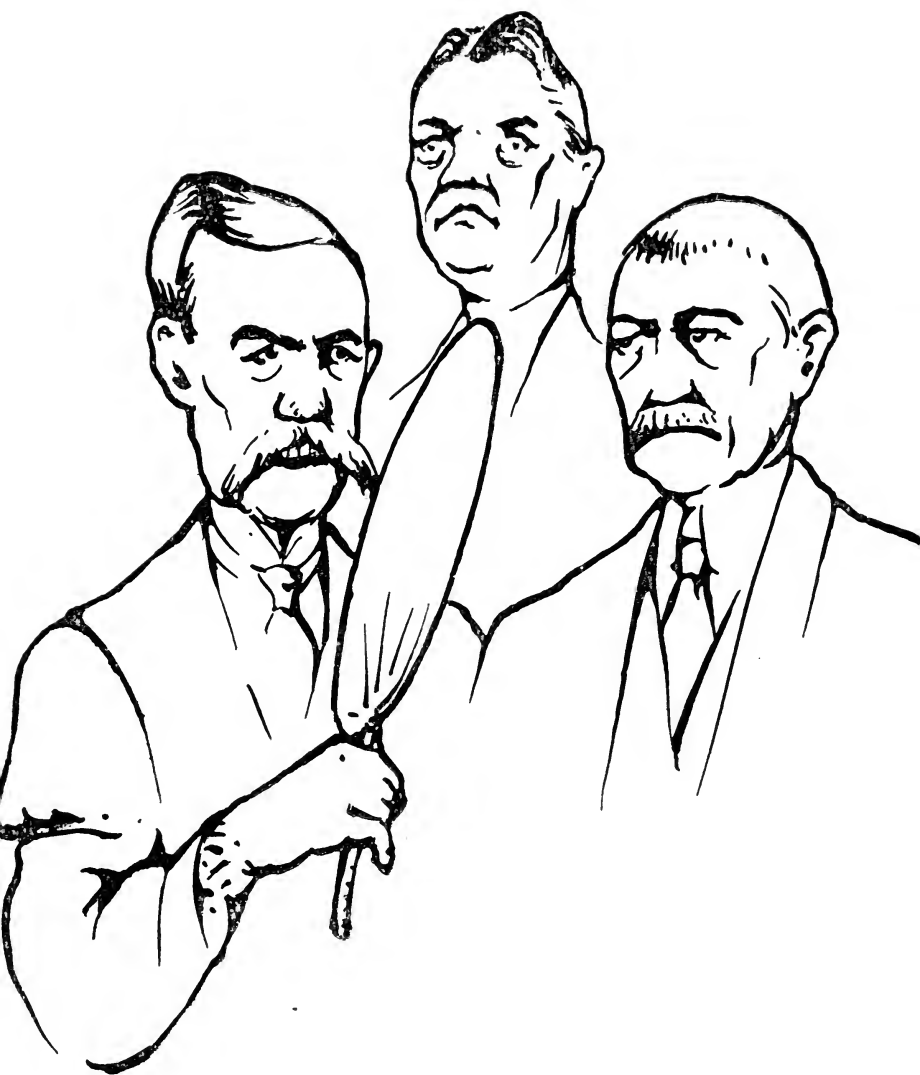


ELIHU ROOT *et al*

Senator Root

Was invited to lunch by Senator Smoot,  
Which caused Senator Owen  
To regret that he wasn't goin'.





## SENATOR NORRIS

Senator Norris

Never met the poet Horace:

You see, Nebraska is a State

They admitted too late.

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## COLONEL HOUSE

Colonel House

Would never attend a carouse.

Said he, jocosely: "My principles are set  
Against any bank-wet."



## CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS

Charles Francis Adams swore

He would not speak Latin any more.

When they said: "What will you consent to speak?"

He replied: "Certainly not Greek."



## ADAM

It has been asked when Adam  
Began to address Eve as "Madam."  
Some think it was after the Fall;  
Others contend he never did it at all.



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## MOSES

That poker was played by Moses

No one seriously supposes.

I am afraid

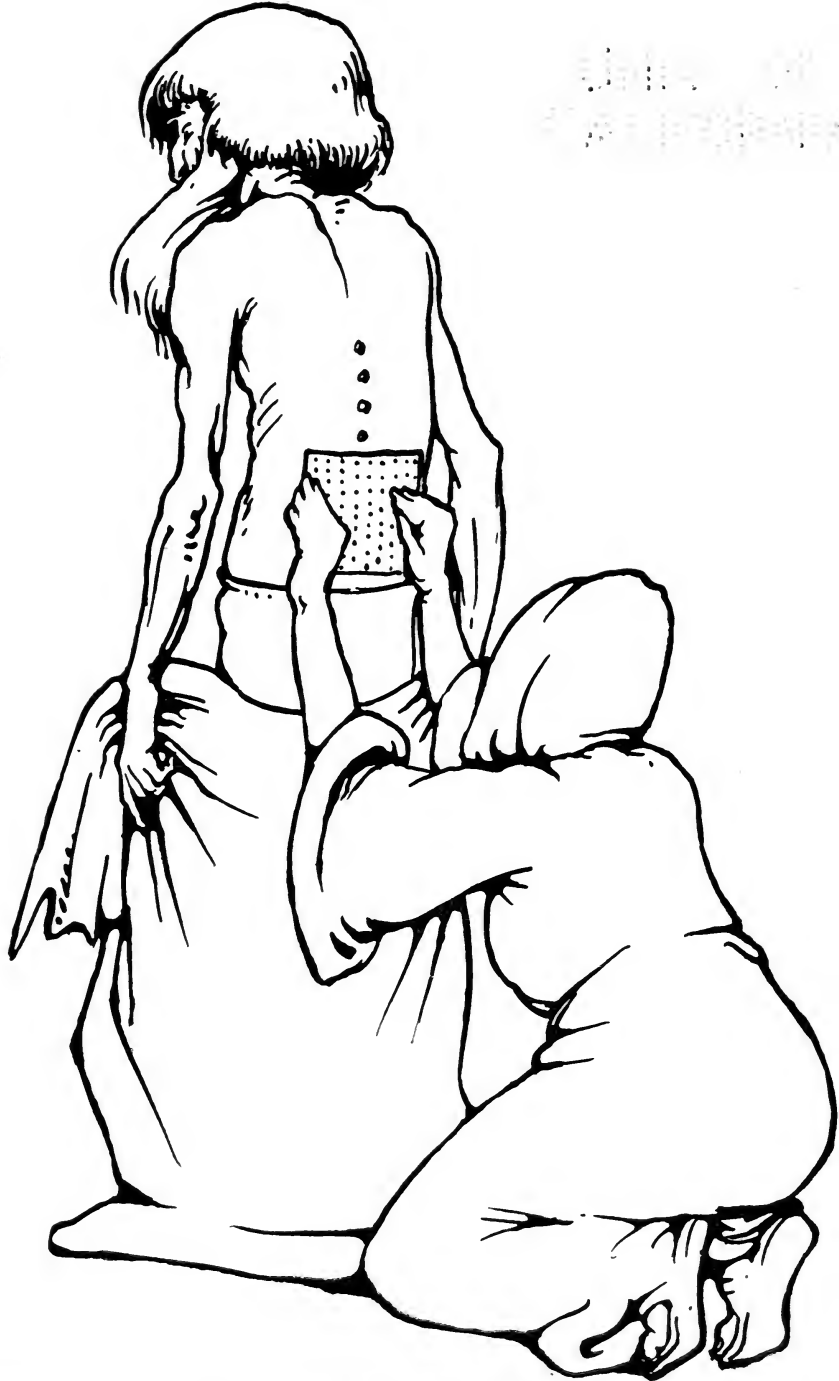
We shall never know what he played.



## ZOROASTER

Zoroaster

Invariably wore a lumbago plaster,  
Though all his biographers omit  
To mention it.



## JUSTIN MARTYR

Justin Martyr

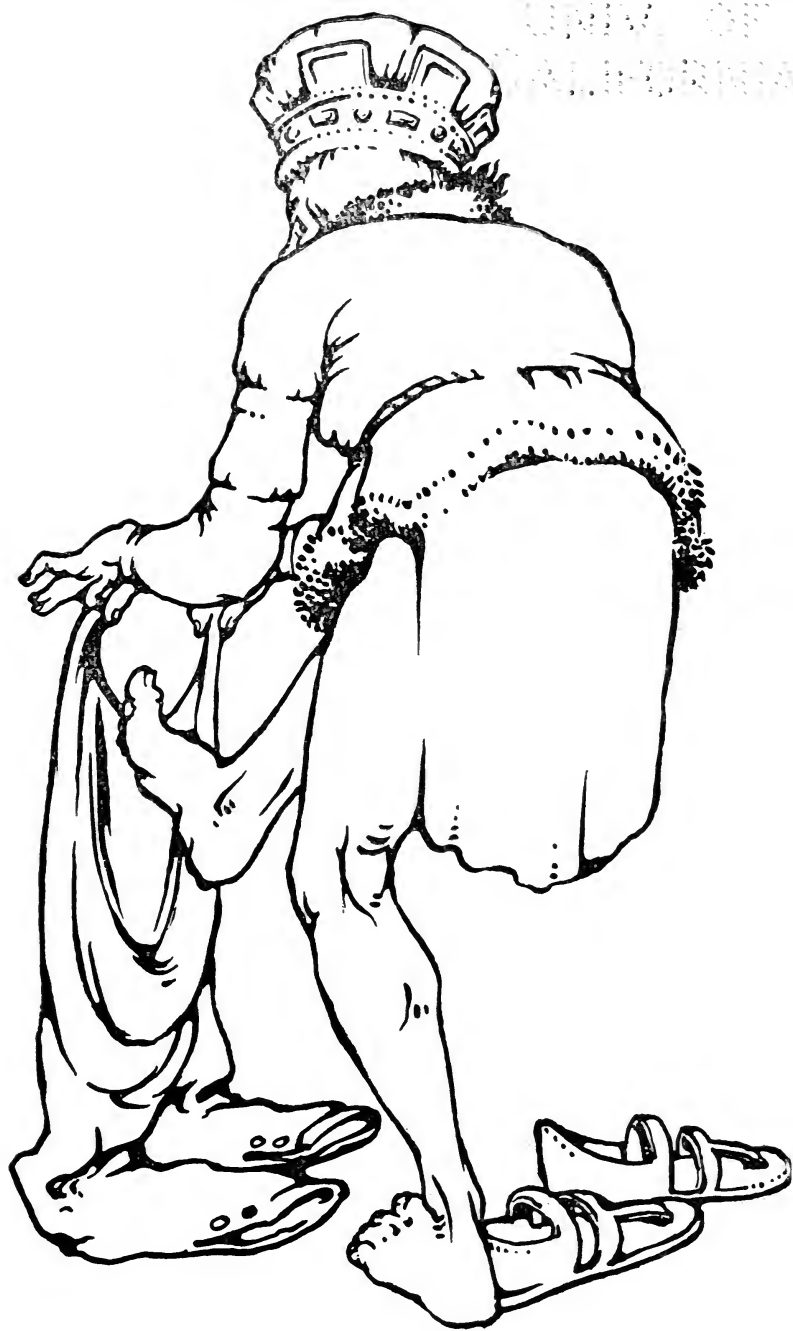
Inadvertently mislaid his garter ;  
He mentioned it to Saint Augustine,  
But the article hadn't been seen.



## THE GOOD KING DAGOBERT

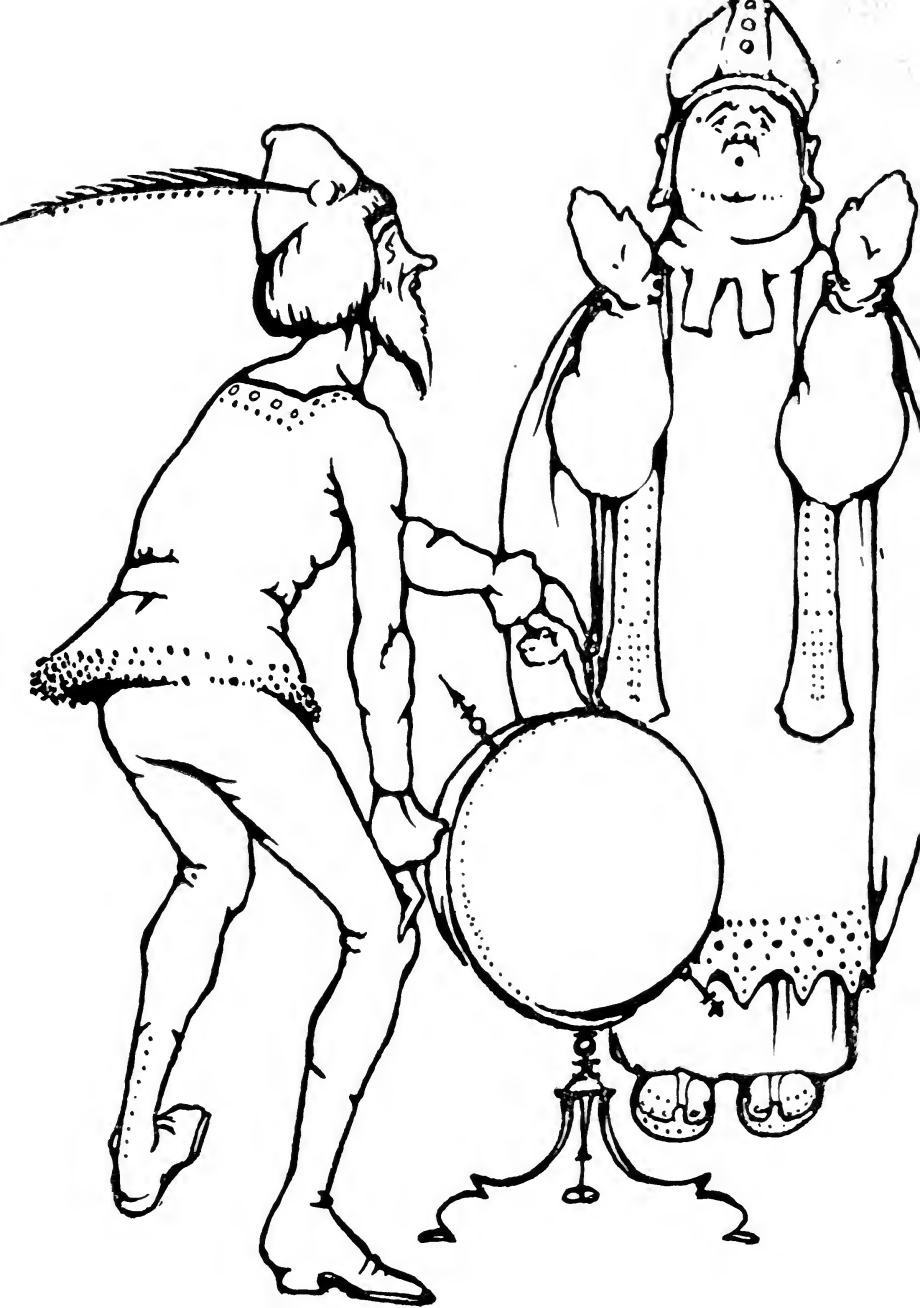
In reversing his trousers, Dagobert  
Must have exposed some shirt:  
A supposition which fills  
Earnest dress-reformers with chills.





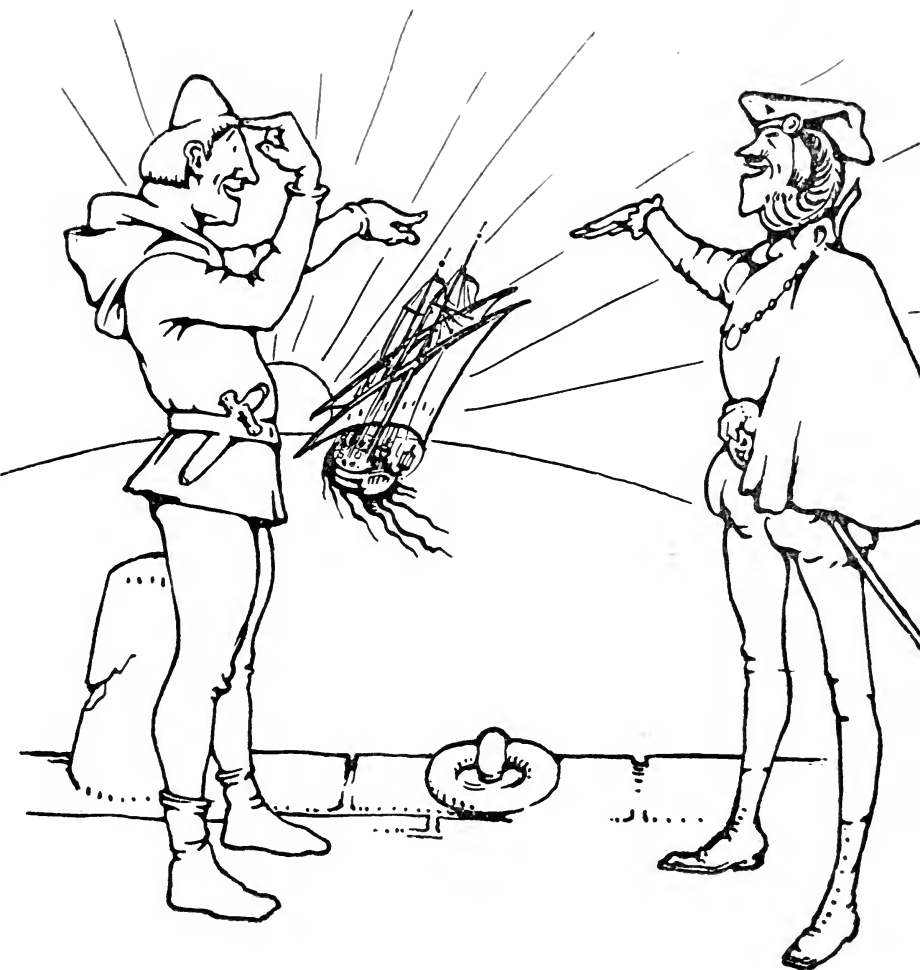
## GALILEO

Galileo was well thought of until  
He denied that the world stood still.  
It was then that he began  
To displease the Vatican.



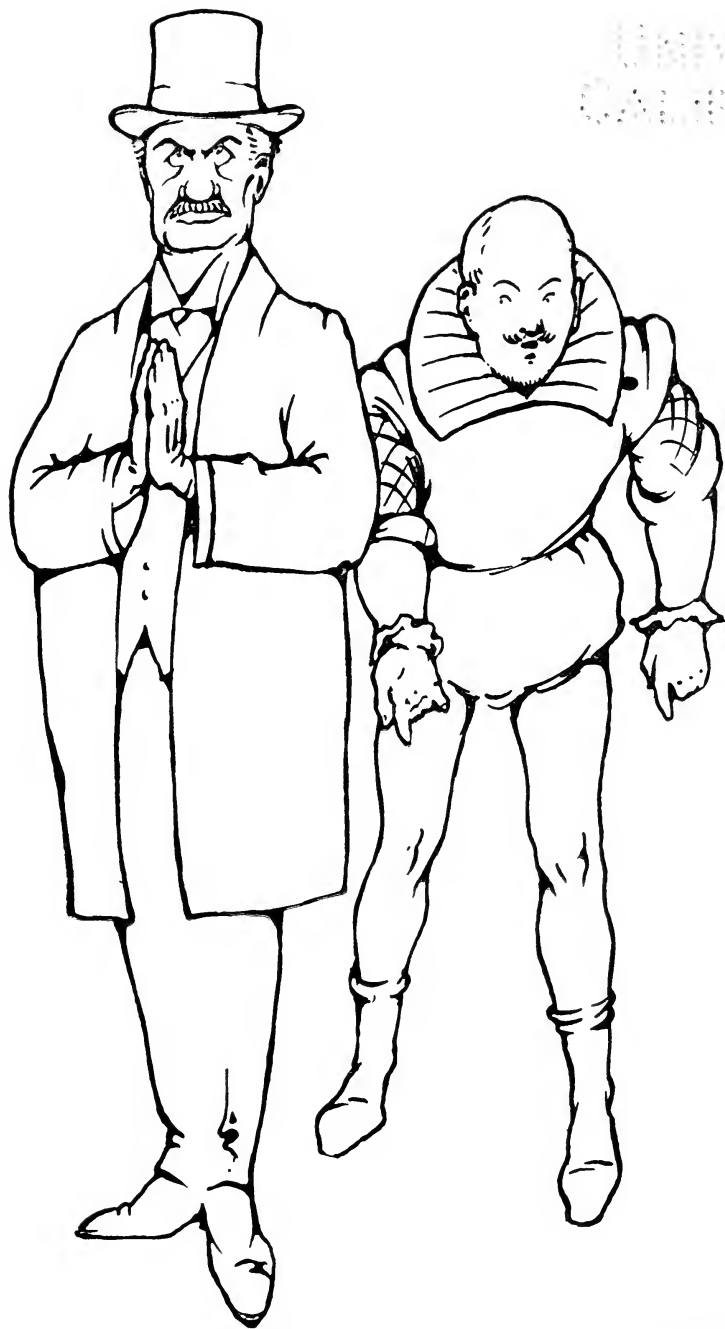
## CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Columbus was accepted as sane;  
But he set out for the Spanish Main  
Asserting the earth to be round:  
That made people ask if he were quite sound.



## WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

When Shakespeare was forsaken  
By those who preferred Bacon,  
It isn't generally known  
That he asked J. P. Morgan for a loan.



## NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

Some say that Bonaparte  
Knew Caesar's Commentaries by heart.  
I can state that I have met boys  
Whom this work definitely annoys.





## EDGAR ALLEN POE

Edgar Allen Poe

Never could bear Harriet Beecher Stowe.

He said that she would talk about slaves

When he wanted to talk about graves.



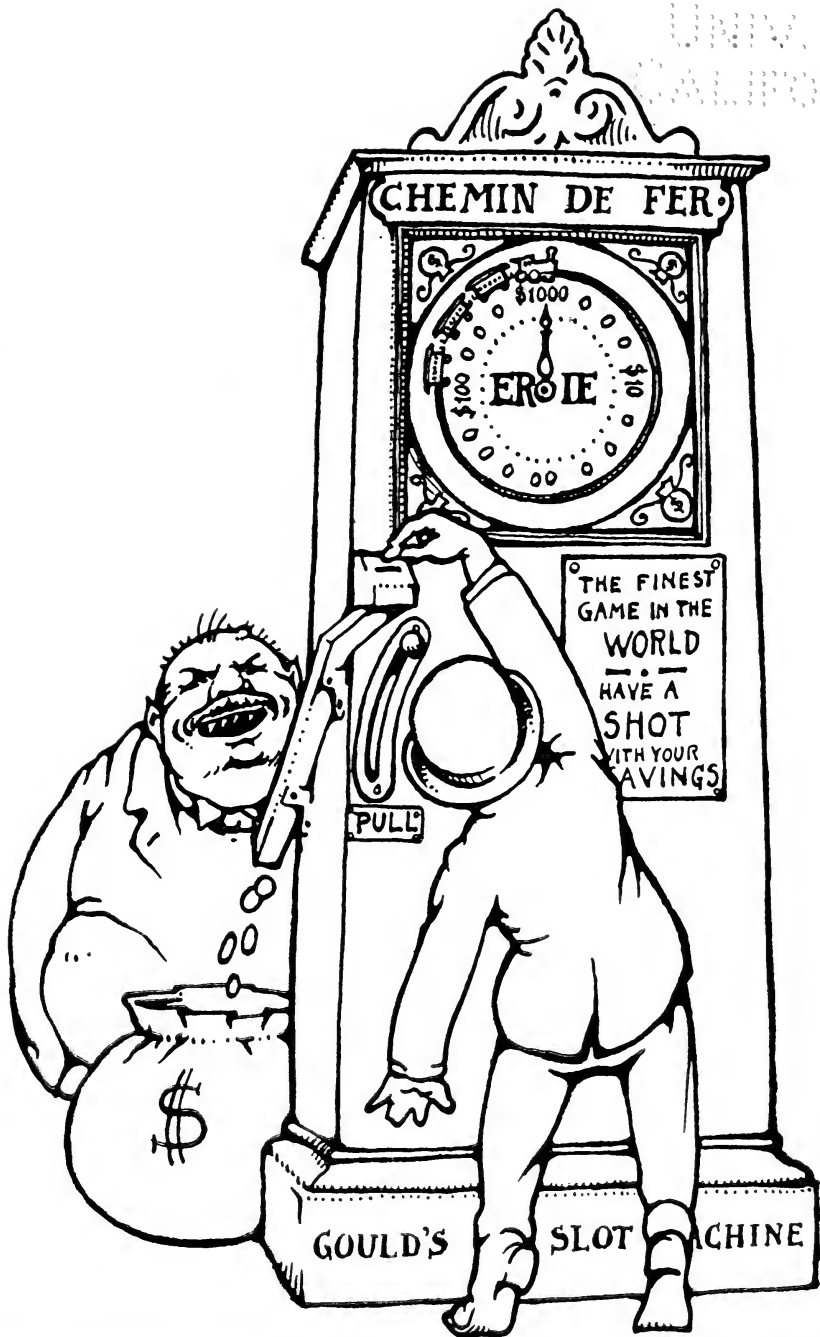
## RICHARD WAGNER

When he began the Ring  
Wagner had never learned how to sing;  
When he had finished  
This deficiency was not diminished.



## JAY GOULD

The late Jay Gould  
Had his stock-holders fooled.  
They grew very weary  
Waiting for dividends in Erie.



## ROBERT BROWNING

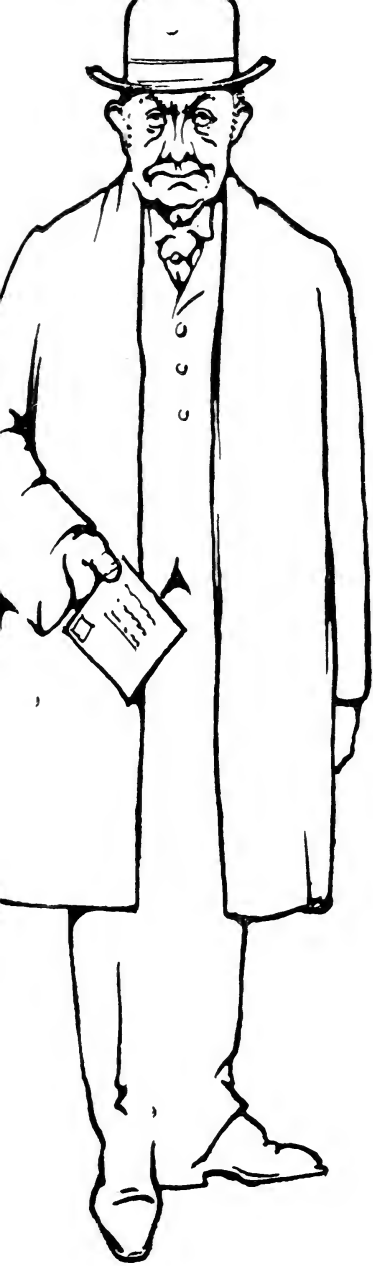
The poet Browning  
Was in the act of drowning,  
When he fell in with George Sand.  
That decided him to land.





ALGERNON CHARLES SWINBURNE

Algernon Swinburne once wrote  
An anonymous letter to Mr. Choate,  
In which he very kindly offered to show him  
How to write an erotic poem.



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## THOMAS EDISON

Thomas Edison made a machine  
By which people's thoughts could be seen;  
But he smashed it at once.  
Thomas was no dunce.



## JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

By building a new house  
Sousa deeply incensed Richard Strauss:  
He said that the Yankee musician  
Should be taught his position.



# HAROLD BELL WRIGHT

Harold Bell Wright

Finishes a novel every night,

Except Sundays.

So he finishes two on Mondays.





## GABRIEL D'ANNUNZIO

Upon getting into Fiume, d'Annunzio

Exclaimed: "Here's a go!"

The Entente found the word

In questionable taste, if not absurd.

Californ



## THE BIG FOUR

The Big Four looked for good behavior  
On the part of Jugo-Slavia.  
They based their calculations  
On the League of Nations.



## DAVID LLOYD GEORGE

Mr. Lloyd George was starting for a walk

When he began to talk.

That's the way

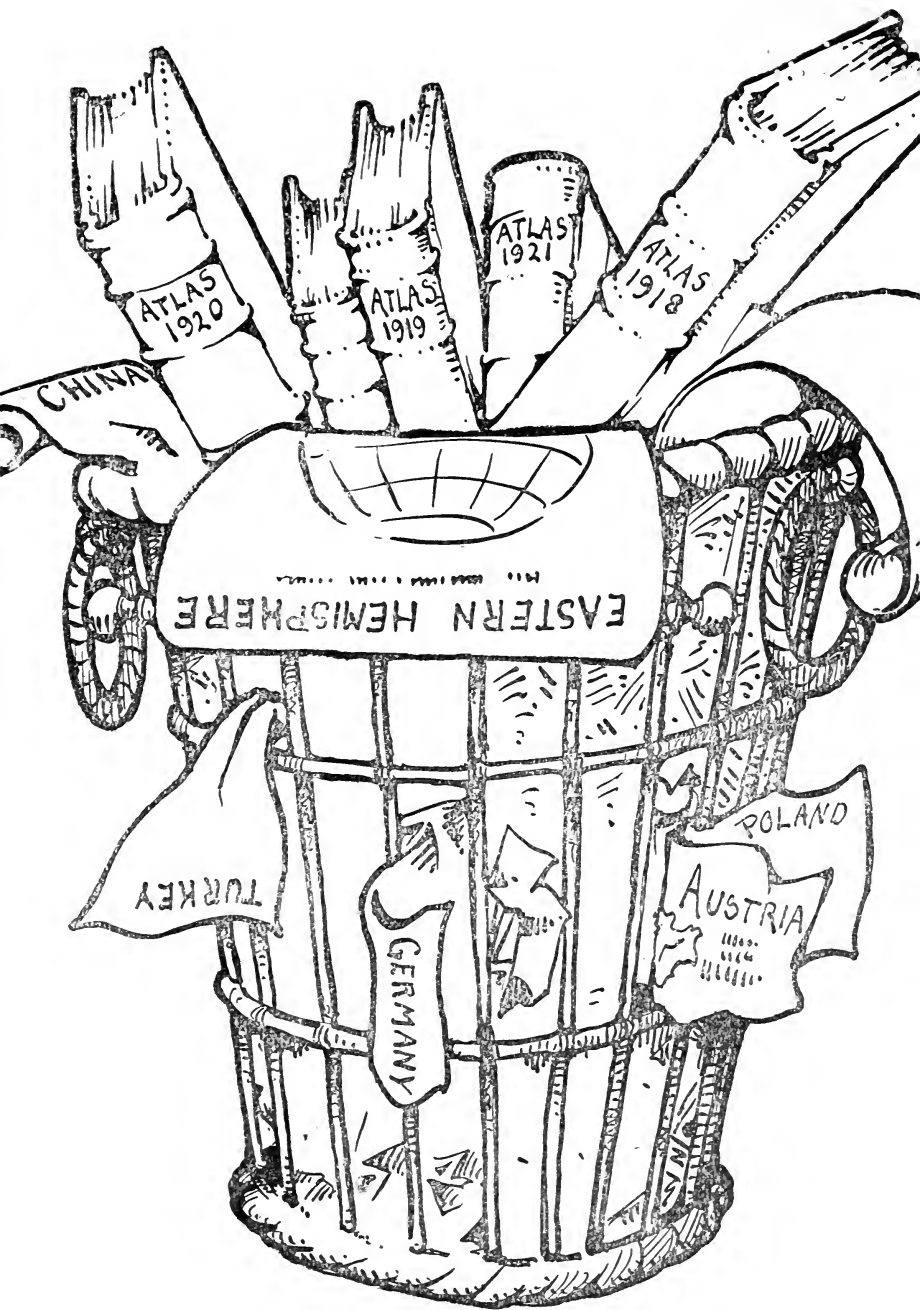
It got put off till the next day.



## RAND McNALLY

That Rand McNally makes maps  
You may have heard, perhaps.  
That's why he always smiles  
When they mention the Treaty of Versailles.





## JOHN SARGENT AND MISS BEAUX

John Sargent once painted

A man so veraciously that the man fainted.

Cecilia Beaux said, "That ain't

The way to paint."



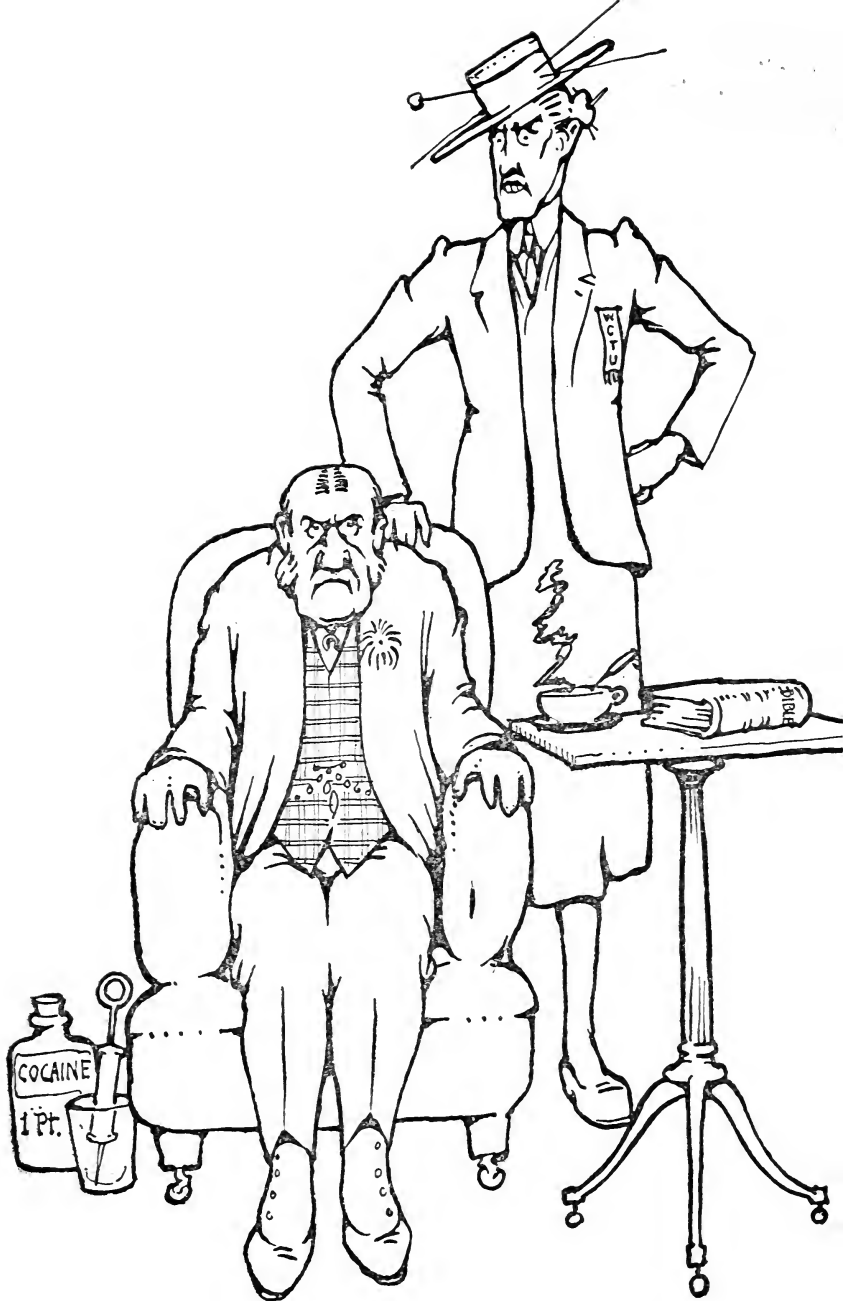
## THE W. C. T. U.

It is hard to say what the W. C. T. U.

Will do:

It has driven the Nation to drink.

What next, do you think?



## MISS LOWELL

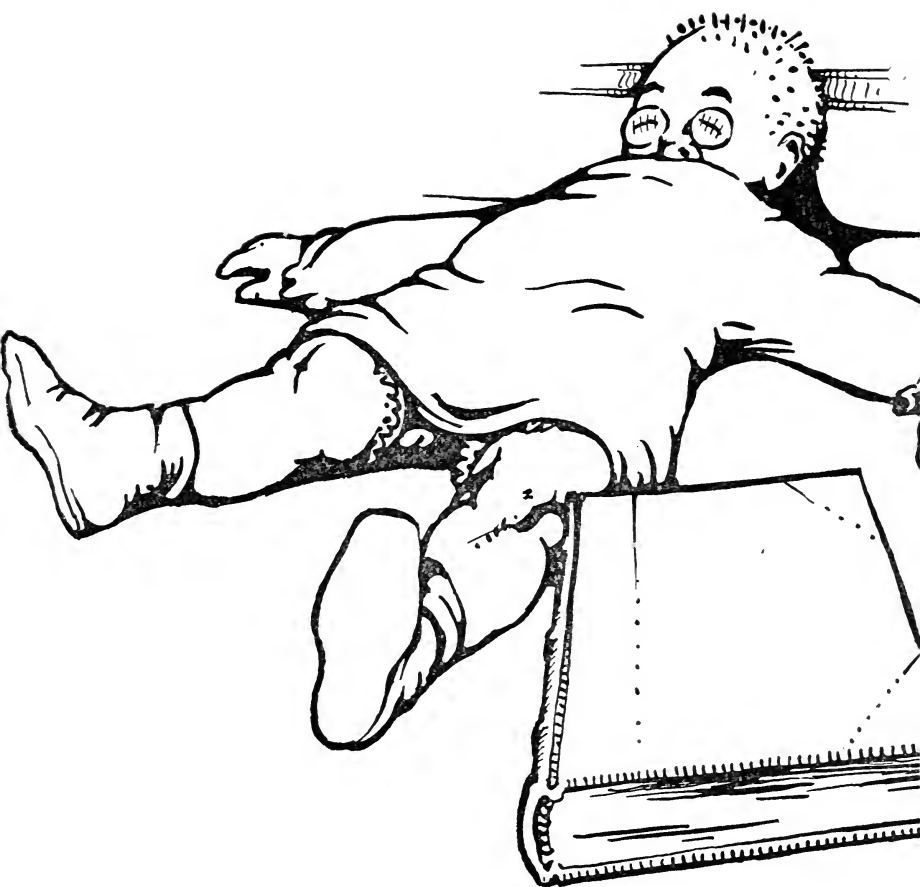
When Amy Lowell wrote some verse  
Rather freely about a hearse,  
They said to her: "Does it strike you  
That the corpse will be apt to like you?"



## EPILOGUE

We feel that this is enough at present  
For the minds of the adolescent.  
Therefore further facts worthy of mention  
Are withheld from their attention.





## ETHICAL INDEX

We do not understand why the person who said that the boy is father of the man did not also say that the girl is mother of the woman. Is she not? Then why leave her out? This little book tries to be fair to all, regardless of sex. As a glance will disclose, it is purely moral. It is designed to help parents, teachers and guardians of any sex in the care of the young of any sex, and it repudiates all reactionary distinctions based on mere gender. It is offered to the home and the school as a manual of character building; to make it as comprehensive as possible, history has been surveyed from the Garden of Eden to the League of Nations. The aim of the little work is to make people grow up good, not great. We regard greatness as an insult to equality, and we give no encouragement to the barren achievements of genius. Would you not prefer that your little boy, or your little girl, or your little whatever it is, should grow to manhood, or womanhood, or whatever it will be, displaying (for instance) the deep insight and self-effacing patriotism of a member of congress (whatever its sex) rather than the frivolous tendencies of (for instance) a Shakespeare? Therefore, when Shakespeare and other such afflicted persons are mentioned in these pages, it is either as a warning or because in spite of their deplorable lives their conduct has at times been worthy of imitation.

Abnegation.....may serve best interests of humanity.....Edison  
Absentmindedness....may defeat good intentions.....Lloyd George  
Acquisitiveness.....important to captains of transportation...Gould  
Activity.....commendable in mind and body.....Browning  
Altruism.....never out of place.....Swinburne  
Ambition.....should always be lofty.....McAdoo  
(and see also W. C. T. U.)

American Army.....should be humanely treated....Baker & Daniels  
ditto Navy.....disturbing abuse of.....Roosevelt  
ditto ditto.....should be suitably dieted.....Baker & Daniels  
ditto Parents....culpable irresponsibility of.....Washington  
ditto Patriot.....should always be modest.....Decatur

American Statesman..deprived of advantages by habitat.....Nor  
ditto ditto....opinions affected by birth place.....Fod  
ditto ditto....should always be sociable.....Ro  
ditto ditto....should always be approachable.....La Follet  
Antipathy.....justifiable when directed against pedantry..Ada  
Astronomy.....should not be carried too far.....Galil

Balance.....regrettably absent in judicial nature.....Ta  
ditto.....lack of may prove a timely spur.....Shakespea  
Business sense.....should never die.....Frank  
ditto.....may occur even in poetic nature.....Shakespea

Carelessness.....in biographers.....Zoroast  
(and see Young and Shakespeare)  
ditto.....in early fathers of church.....Justin Mart  
Caution.....to be exercised in signing letters.....Swinbur  
Capsicum.....early use of.....Zoroast  
Conservatism.....overtakes sailors on shore.....Roosev  
Constructiveness.....rare instance of in musician.....Sou  
Costume.....should not be conspicuous in males.....Dagob  
Courage.....should always adorn the educator.....Bry  
Courtesy.....graceful between belligerents.....Hamilt  
Credulity.....to be avoided by investors.....Gou  
ditto.....in panaceas.....The Big Fo

Dignity.....in rebuke of jokers.....D'Annun  
Domicile.....should not be hastily chosen.....Wils  
ditto.....may contract world experience.....Nor

Education.....flouted by arrogant musician.....Wagn  
ditto.....reformed by prominent Bostonian.....Ada  
ditto.....of plain people commendable.....Bry  
Economy.....sought in foot wear.....McAd  
Egotism.....Petulant indulgence in.....P  
Envy.....characteristic of genius.....Sou  
Ethnology.....the foundation of peace.....The Big Fo  
Exercise.....opportunist postponement of.....Lloyd Geor

Family ties.....should never influence official responsibility.Gra  
ditto.....should not be ignored by biographers.....You

Firmness.....	apt exercise of.....	Adams
	(and see Bryan)	
Flippancy.....	always out of place.....	D'Annunzio
Fore-sight.....	not invariable in statesmen.....	Jefferson
Government.....	should be maternal.....	W. C. T. U.
Health.....	attention to essential for leaders.....	Zoroaster
Hope.....	often apparent in investors.....	Gould
Human nature.....	understood by.....	Edison
Humor.....	defensive use of.....	House
ditto.....	present even in geographers.....	McNally
Imitation.....	happy case of.....	Johnson & Borah
Impatience.....	a sign of vanity.....	Poe
Indiscretion.....	not advisable in free verse.....	Lowell
Industry.....	displayed by creator of epics.....	Wright
Intemperance.....	in language to be discouraged...	Baker & Daniels
Intolerance.....	unworthy display of.....	Poe
Inventiveness.....	must not tamper with nature's secrets...	Edison
Irritability.....	never helps.....	Jackson
Jealousy.....	too common in artists.....	Sargent & Beaux
Knowledge.....	insufficiently imparted.....	Jackson
Latin.....	repudiated by the adult.....	Adams
ditto.....	ditto by the immature.....	Bonaparte
Legislation.....	variable in psychological reactions	
	The Missouri Compromise	
Loquacity.....	a source of friction.....	Poe
Matrimony.....	Vicissitudes of may be mere gossip.....	Adam
Mathematics.....	heretical abuse of.....	Galileo
Mediaevalism.....	in toilet to be discouraged.....	Dagobert
Memory.....	retentive in military mind.....	Bonaparte
Militarism.....	tactfully restrained.....	Baker & Daniels
Multiplicity.....	matrimonial imperfectly chronicled....	Young
Mystery.....	often surrounds great personalities.....	Moses
ditto.....	ditto conjugal life.....	Adam

Narrowness.....regrettable in artists.....Sargent & Beaux  
 Naturalization.....carefully deliberated.....Wilson  
 Nebraska.....too recent for complete cosmopolitanism...Norris  
 Normalcy.....restored by female influence.....Browning

Obstinacy.....natural reward of.....Galileo  
 Optimism.....cheerful display of.....Taft  
 (and see The Big Four)

Painters.....ruthless quality in.....Sargent & Beaux  
 Patience.....may be acquired through investments....Gould  
 Patriotism.....commendable always in men of action...Decatur  
 ditto.....ditto ditto in men of reflection  
 Johnson & Boran

Perseverance.....an ornament to man of letters.....Hearst  
 Pessimism.....cured by sudden shock.....Browning  
 Piety.....beautiful in epic creator.....Wright  
 Plagiarism.....apparent not real.....Perry  
 Prejudice.....never edifying.....Jackson  
 Profanity.....we should always try to cure it in others  
 Baker & Daniels

Pronunciation.....a supposed test of breeding.....Jackson  
 Prophetic gift.....lack of favors serenity.....Jefferson  
 Psychology.....sometimes defective in diplomats...The Big Four  
 Purism.....is it worth while?.....Jackson

Querulousness.....of poets.....Pe  
 Quixotism.....in scientist.....Edison

Rashness.....of statement to be avoided.....McAdo  
 ditto.....ditto not resisted.....D'Annunzi  
 Recreation.....needful in posts of responsibility.....Mose  
 Reform.....instinct for strong in females.....W. C. T. U  
 Regularity.....marks highest genius.....Wright  
 Relatives.....must not hamper men of action.....Gran  
 ditto.....by marriage should count.....Youn  
 Resourcefulness.....can occur in poets.....Shakespear  
 Restlessness.....not necessarily incurable.....Wilso  
 Rheumatism.....known to ancients.....Zoroaste

Satire.....	edifying restraint of.....	McNally
Seafaring .....	generates undesirable vocabulary.	Baker & Daniels
Secretiveness.....	justifiable employment of.....	Moses
Self.....	never to be considered.....	Bryan
Self-determination....	should regulate birth-place.....	Lodge
Soldiering.....	like seafaring, which see.....	Baker & Daniels
Sport.....	valuable in forming character.....	Perry
Star-gazing.....	deleterious to orthodoxy.....	Galileo
Subject.....	important in poetry.....	Lowell
Temper.....	should usually be kept.....	Jackson
Temerity.....	its inevitable consequences.....	Columbus
Unpreparedness.....	flagrant case of.....	Wagner
Uplift.....	rescues public from dangers of iced water	
		W. C. T. U.
Valor.....	essential to publicists .....	Bryan
Veracity.....	abused in art.....	Sargent & Beaux
Words.....	can thwart deeds.....	Lloyd George
Zeal.....	noble case of in male nature.....	Hearst
ditto.....	ditto female nature.....	W. C. T. U.









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